

Great Scott!!!

“Roads? Where we’re going we don’t need roads.” That was the concluding line in a Back to the Future movie classic. Emmett “Doc” Brown predicted the future would be much different than our past or current world. This week, both social media and mainline print media reflected on the October 15, 2015 date Doc Brown set on his DeLorean as a defining future date. Predictions of flying cars, hover board skateboards and the Cubs winning the World Series didn’t happen in 2015.



The Back to the Future movie trilogy interjects the main characters into different times in history. Cultures clash. Who could forget young Marty McFly playing heavy metal guitar music at the 1955 “Enchantment Under the Sea” high school dance? Marty McFly also asked for a Pepsi Free soft drink. “If you want a Pepsi, you have to pay for it,” said the 1955 store owner.

In all his exuberance that his time travel experiment worked, Doc Brown was quick to say “Great Scott!!!”

We can have fun imagining time-travel in a changing world. The truth is God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Set the time machine to any date you want – 1955, 1985 or 2015 -- and God’s values are exactly the same. We have to be strong because the worldly culture constantly places new temptations on us, making it more difficult to hold onto the ageless values of our faith.

In the movie Doc Brown said, “It’s not a matter of where we are going, but when.” That is just the opposite of God’s perspective. The “when” we hope to enter God’s future is totally unknown. What is important is where we are going and being ready for that time.



In the movie, the DeLorean returns Doc and Marty McFly to the present day, after having a glimpse into 30 years past and future. So, what does the future look like? The Bible provides that glimpse. There are several eye witnesses to heaven, including Elijah (2 Kings 2:1-12) and Enoch, both of whom are said to visit heaven without tasting death. John saw heaven through an open door (Revelations 4:1) and Paul saw heaven open up (Acts 9:3-4) on the road to Damascus.

Jesus does not describe what it looks like, but is more concerned about what it takes to get there (John 6:44, Acts 4:12 and Acts 16:30-31). The future in heaven is beautiful, with no more pain, suffering or tears.

Want to get there? You don’t have to take the DeLorean up to the required speed; you just need to be up to speed on your faith, believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Then, where you are going, you won’t need roads.

Question: Do you want to get there?

Prayer: Heavenly Father. We long to be with you in heaven, where there is no pain, suffering or tears. You are the only way to reach our heavenly destination. Amen.

For Further Study: Facts About Heaven

Heaven is a place (Matthew 6 and John 14)
Heaven is a place of treasures (Matthew 6)
Heaven is a place prepared for us (Matthew 25)
Heaven is a place of joy and reward (Matthew 25)
Heaven is a place of justice (Luke 16)
Heaven is a place of single community (Luke 20).

For Further Study: Glimpse of Heaven

Elijah taken up to heaven: *When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel.” ... As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two (2 Kings 2:1, 11-12).*

Enoch Walking with God: *Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away (Genesis 5:24).*

John sees heaven through an open door: *After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” (John 4:1)*

Saul (soon to become Paul) on the road to Damascus: *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” (Acts 9:3-4).*

Jesus talks about what it takes to gain eternal life:

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day (John 6:44).

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. (Acts 4:12).

He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.” (Acts 16:30-31).

For Further Study: What is Heaven Like?

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits thick. The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life (Revelation 21:10-27).